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Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the Patent Application of :

Inventor(s): Barry Stanley Barnett
Title: Authenticated Access to Storage Area Network

Enclosed are:

- ☒ Patent Specification and 1 Declaration(s).
- ☒ 6 sheets of drawing(s). (Informal)
- ☒ An assignment of the invention to International Business Machines Corporation (includes Recordation Form Cover Sheet).
- ☐ A certified copy of a _____ application.
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 and copies of references.

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

For	No. Filed	Rate		Fee
Basic Fee	1	690.00		690.00
Claims	22 -20 x	18.00	=	36.00
Ind. Claims	3 -3 x	78.00	=	0.00
Mult. Dep. Claims	0 x	260.00	=	0.00
Total Fee				726.00

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- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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AUTHENTICATED ACCESS TO STORAGE AREA NETWORK

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Present Invention

The present invention generally relates to field of data processing and more particularly to a method and implementation for secured or authenticated access to a storage area network, particularly, a Fibre Channel compliant storage area network.

2. History of Related Art

In the field of data processing, the rapidly growing number of data intensive applications has produced a seemingly insatiable demand for raw data storage capacity. Meeting the demands of applications such as data warehousing, data mining, on-line transaction processing, and multimedia internet and intranet browsing requires approximately twice as much new storage capacity each year. In addition, the number of network connections for server-storage subsystems is also rapidly increasing. With the rise of client networking, data intensive computing applications, and electronic communications applications, virtually all network stored data is mission critical. Increased reliance on being able to access networked stored data is challenging the limitations of traditional server-storage systems. As a result, adding more storage, servicing more users, and backing up more data have become never ending tasks. The parallel Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) bus widely used for server-storage connectivity on Local Area Network (LAN) servers is imposing severe limits on network storage. Compounding these limits is the traditional use of LAN connections for server-storage backup which detracts from usable client bandwidth.

The Storage Area Network (SAN) is an emerging data communications platform that interconnects servers and storage at Gigabaud speeds. SAN attempts to eliminate the bandwidth bottlenecks and scalability limitations imposed by SCSI architectures by integrating LAN networking models with the core building blocks of server performance and mass storage capacity. The Fibre Channel protocol is a widely endorsed open standard for the SAN

environment. Fibre Channel combines high bandwidth and high scalability with multiple protocol support, including SCSI and IP, over a single physical connection. This enables the SAN to serve as both a server interconnect and as a direct interface to storage devices and storage arrays.

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Unfortunately, the openness that is at least partially responsible for the increasing prevalence of Fibre Channel storage area networks, creates a potentially significant security issue for a tremendous number of large (as well as small) and highly valued databases. As an open standard, the Fibre Channel network is susceptible to many of the same security concerns as the Internet. A malicious hacker who was able to gain control of a host bus adapter connected to a Fibre Channel switch may be able to alter, delete, or otherwise damage data across the entire SAN. An unauthorized user who gains access to a Fibre Channel fabric attached element can compromise a Fibre Channel switch in at least three ways. First, the user may write software to use the existing Fibre Channel device interface to compromise the fabric operating environment. Second, the user could install device level drivers that try to compromise the fabric operating environment at the Fibre Channel physical and signaling interface (FC-PH) level. Third, the user could install a doctored host bus adapter that has hardware or micro-code that tries to exploit the fabric operating environment at the FC-PH level. Therefore, it would be highly desirable to implement a secure and cost effective mechanism for assuring the integrity of transactions that occur on a SAN network.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The problem identified above is addressed in the present invention by a method and system for authenticated access to a storage area network (SAN). Initially, a password is retrieved from a first copy of a password table in response to an access (login) request, the first copy of the password table residing on a switch and corresponding to a switch port. The password is used to retrieve a response from the first copy of the password table. The response is encrypted according to a first copy of an encryption key stored on the switch. The encrypted password is then sent to the node requesting access to the SAN, where it is decrypted according

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to a second copy of the encryption key residing on the node. The decrypted password is used to retrieve a response from a second copy of the password table residing on the node. The response is encrypted according to the second copy of the encryption key and sent back to the switch port. The response received from the node is then compared with the response determined from the first copy of the password table. Access to the SAN is permitted if the two responses match and denied otherwise. The method further includes a mechanism for generating codes based on hardware serial ID numbers (or other unique values) and comparing the serial ID numbers against previously stored codes to determine if the hardware serial numbers have changed and allowing or denying access to the SAN based upon that determination.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG 1A illustrates one embodiment of a storage area network suitable for implementing the present invention;

FIG 1B illustrates greater detail of the Fibre Channel fabric of the network of FIG 1A;

FIG 2 is a block diagram of a data processing system suitable for connecting as a node to the storage area network of FIG 1;

FIG 3 is a simplified block diagram illustrating a link between a fabric switch in the storage area network and an endpoint node;

FIG 4 depicts the software components of a storage area network authentication mechanism according to one embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG 5 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of authenticating a storage area network according to one embodiment of the invention.

While the invention is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments thereof are shown by way of example in the drawings and will herein be described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the drawings and detailed description presented herein are not intended to limit the invention to the particular embodiment disclosed, but on the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to FIGs 1A and 1B, one embodiment of a data processing network **100** suitable for implementing the invention is depicted. Network **100** includes a storage area network (SAN) **105** that is preferably Fibre Channel compliant. Fibre Channel is a scalable technology data transfer interface technology (currently predominantly implemented with a 1 Gbps data transfer rate) that maps several common transport protocols, including Internet Protocol (IP) and SCSI, allowing it to merge high-speed I/O and networking functionality in a single connectivity technology. Fibre Channel is a set of open standards defined by ANSI and ISO. Detailed information regarding the various Fibre Channel standards is available from ANSI Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X3T11 (www.t11.org), which is primarily responsible for the Fibre Channel project. These standards are collectively referred to in this specification as the Fibre Channel standard or the Fibre Channel specification. Fibre Channel operates over both copper and fiber optic cabling at distances of up to 10 Kilometers and supports multiple inter-operable topologies including point-to-point, arbitrated-loop, and switching (and combinations thereof).

The depicted embodiment of SAN **105** includes a set of nodes **120** that are interconnected through a Fibre Channel fabric **101**. The nodes **120** of network **100** may include any of a variety of devices or systems including, as shown in FIG 1A, one or more data processing systems (computers) **102**, tape subsystems **104**, RAID devices **106**, disk subsystems **108**, Fibre Channel arbitrated loops (FCAL) **110**, and other suitable data storage and data processing devices. One or more nodes **120** of network **100** may be connected to an external network denoted by

reference numeral **103**. The external network **103** may be a local area network (LAN) or an IP supported network such as the Internet. Typically, Fibre Channel fabric **101** includes one or more interconnected Fibre Channel switches **130**, each of which includes a set of Fibre Channel ports **140**. Each port **140** typically includes a connector, a transmitter, a receiver, and supporting logic for one end of a Fibre Channel link and may further include a controller. Ports **140** act as repeaters for all other ports **140** in fabric **101**. Fibre channel ports are described according to their topology type. An F port denotes a switch port (such as are shown in FIG 1B), an L or NL port denotes an Arbitrated-Loop link (not shown in FIG 1B), and an FL port denotes an Arbitrated-Loop to Switch connection port. The ports **140** communicate in a standardized manner that is independent of their topology type, allowing Fibre Channel to support inter-topology communication.

Turning now to FIG 2, a block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a data processing system (computer) **102** that may serve as a node **120** of network **100** is presented. It should be noted that while FIG 2 describes data processing **102** specifically, the architecture described is common to each node **120** of network **100**. Thus, each node **120** may include one or more processors, a system bus, system memory, an I/O bus, and I/O adapters including a host bus adapter (HBA) suitable for connecting to a port **140** of a Fibre Channel switch as described below with specific reference to computer **102**. The depicted embodiment of computer **102** includes one or more processors **200a** through **200n** (generically or collectively referred to herein as processor(s) **200**) that are interconnected via a system bus **204**. Processors **200** may be implemented as reduced instruction set processors such as the PowerPC® family of processors from IBM Corporation. In other embodiments, processors **200** may comprise Sparc® processors from Sun Microsystems, x86 compatible processors such as the Pentium® family processors from Intel Corporation, or any of a variety of other suitable processor architectures.

Processors **200** are connected to a system memory **206** via system bus **204**. The system memory may contain operating system software (or portions thereof) such as the AIX® operating system from IBM, various UNIX® based operating systems, or a Windows® operating system from Microsoft. The system bus **204** is connected to an I/O bus **209** via a host bridge **208**. In the depicted embodiment, host bridge **208** and I/O bus **209** are compatible with

the Peripheral Components Interface (PCI) protocol as specified in the *PCI Local Bus Specification Rev. 2.2*, which is available from the PCI Special Interest Group at (www.pcisig.com). PCI compliant I/O bus **209** provides a processor-independent data path between processors **200** and various peripherals including a network adapter **212** and graphics adapter **214**. Other peripheral devices including a hard disk may be connected to I/O bus **209**. Additionally, a PCI-to-PCI bridge (not depicted) may be connected to bus **209** to provide one or more additional PCI compliant busses. A bridge **216** provides an interface between PCI I/O bus **209** and an Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) bus **218**, to which various I/O devices such as a mouse **222**, keyboard **224**, and floppy drive **226** are connected via an I/O adapter **220**.

The depicted embodiment of computer **102** includes a Fibre Channel HBA **210** connected to PCI I/O bus **209**. HBA **210** provides a connector and supporting logic suitable for connecting a node **120** such as computer **102** to the Fibre Channel fabric **101**. More specifically, with reference to FIG 3, HBA **210** provides a connector that is suitable for connecting through a link **303** to a port **140** of a Fibre Channel switch **130** within Fiber Channel fabric **101**. Link **303** may be implemented as a copper or optical fiber in compliance with the Fiber Channel specification.

The Fibre Channel specification requires a node **120** to perform a fabric login whenever a computer (or other node) attempts to establish a connection between two endpoints of Fabric **101**. As an open standard, however, the fabric login defined by the Fibre Channel specification does not provide a secure mechanism for ensuring that access to SAN **105** is authorized. If an unauthorized user manages to access HBA **210**, possibly via an external network **103** such as the Internet, the security of all data on SAN **105** may be jeopardized. The invention contemplates a strongly authenticated procedure and mechanism to minimize the risk of unauthorized access to the Fibre Channel compliant SAN **105**. This procedure may be incorporated into the Fibre Channel specified fabric login sequence itself or may be implemented as part of an Extended Login Service (ELS). The ELS is a Fibre Channel specified utility that is suitable for implementing extensions to the existing Fibre Channel specified login sequence.

Referring now to FIGs 3 and 4, block diagrams illustrating hardware and software components respectively that are used in conjunction with an authenticated Fibre Channel fabric

login sequence as described herein are presented. In the depicted embodiment, a node **120** and a switch **130** form a Fibre Channel connection. More specifically, a HBA **210** on node **120** is connected to a switch port **140** of switch via a copper or fiber optic cable **303**. The node **120** includes a non-volatile memory device **302** and a system memory **206** that are accessible to host bus adapter **210** via one or more busses. Similarly on the switch side of the connection, switch **130** includes a non-volatile storage device **304** and a switch memory **306** that are accessible to switch port **140**.

In the depicted embodiment, the Fibre Channel fabric **101** includes a key server application **408** that is responsible for generating encryption keys and password tables according to the present invention. The key server **408**, which is preferably launched only by an administrator or user with privileged access to the application, spawns key generation agents **404** and **414** on node **120** (also referred to as host **120**) and switch **130** respectively. In one embodiment, key server **408** is responsible for generating keys and passwords tables for each node-port pair in fabric **100**. The key server **408** is preferably executed periodically to generate new encryption keys and passwords tables as an added security measure. In the preferred embodiment, a unique encryption key and password table is generated for each node-port pair. A copy of the key and password table for each node-port pair is stored on both the host side (indicated in FIG 4 by Host Password Table **402**) and on the switch side (Switch Password Table **412**). The password tables **402** and **412**, which may include the key generated by key server **408**, are preferably stored in non-volatile memory devices **302** and **304** to prevent loss of the keys and table when power is removed from the corresponding device. The key generation agents (or portions thereof), on the other hand, typically reside in the system memory **206** or switch memory **306** when executing. The key and password tables **402** and **412** are preferably stored in a secret location of non-volatile memory devices **302** and **304**. This secret location is known only to the key generating agents **404** and **414** that reside on host **120** and switch **130** respectively.

The encryption keys and password tables that are generated by key server **408** should be transferred to the various host via an entrusted mechanism. In one embodiment, the keys and passwords tables could be generated and stored on a portable storage device such as a floppy

diskette and manually installed on each host by an administrator or other privileged and entrusted user. In another embodiment, the keys and passwords tables may be delivered to each host **120** over an external network via a trusted, and preferably encrypted, link. A secure IP link, for example, might be used to distribute the various keys and password tables to each node **120**.

- 5 This distribution method might itself be performed with an application requiring secure access such as a passworded application.

In addition to the authentication procedure described in greater detail below, the invention may include the use of software/hardware binding to further secure access to the Fibre Channel fabric **101**. Generally speaking the binding function includes the generation of a binding code based upon a unique number (such as the serial number) associated with each hardware device endpoint. During a system power up or software reset, software compares the binding code of each link against the serial number (or other unique number) of each attached hardware device. If the code does not correspond to the associated serial number, the connection to the SAN is aborted and reported to an administrator.

Referring now to FIG 5, a flow diagram of one embodiment of a Fibre Channel fabric authentication mechanism and method **500** as contemplated is presented. The method **500** may be implemented as a computer program product (software) in which a set of processor executable instructions for authenticating access to SAN **105** are stored on a computer readable medium such as a floppy diskette, CD ROM, hard drive, tape storage, a non-volatile memory device such as a PROM, EEPROM, or flash device, or in a system memory or cache memory associated with one or more processors. Various portions of the software may be executed by a processor on a node **120** while others may be executed by a processor in a switch **130** of network **100**. Similarly, various portions of a software implementation of method **500** may comprise portions of switch's SAN software interface **416** or the node's software interface **406**. In one embodiment (as depicted in FIG 4) the authentication is performed by software interfaces **406** and **416** on either side of the link. The host software interface monitors the host for events that trigger portions of the authentication mechanism. If, for example, a power up or software reset is detect (block **502**) the host software interface **406** will read (block **504**) an identifying number of the host device (such as the serial number). From the serial number, software interface **406** can

generate a bind code and compare (block 506) the generated bind code against that was stored when the bind codes were originally generated (such as when the host 120 was initially installed). If the generated bind code and the stored bind code do not match, the software interface is disabled (block 508) and the system administrator is notified. The bind code may be further enhanced by incorporating additional information in the code. A time stamp and date stamp may be used when the bind code is initially generated. If the time stamp and date stamp detected during a subsequent power on or software reset are not chronologically greater than (i.e., after) the originally detected date and time stamps, the software may abort. This hardware/software binding prevents an unauthorized user from physically swapping an unauthorized HBA for an authorized HBA as a means of gaining unauthorized access to SAN 105. Similarly, the binding codes prevents an unauthorized user from installing an unauthorized version of software interface 406 in an attempt to access SAN 105. Thus, the described binding mechanism provides an additional level of security for SAN 105. When a power up sequence or software reset occurs, the unauthorized HBA and/or software interface will be unable to retrieve the required binding codes thereby preventing access to the key generation application, without which the user will be unable to access SAN 105.

Assuming that a power up sequence has been performed successfully and the bind code of each hard device is verified (and assuming no software reset events occur), software interface 406 will monitor for an event that triggers an authenticated fabric login sequence according to the present invention. Preferably, the authenticated login sequence is launched each time each time there is a normal switch login and each time there is an abnormal switch event (login or logout). Upon the occurrence of such an event, software interface 406 requests (block 510) a login to switch 130. In response, a software interface 416 on switch 130 generates a random hash (block 512) into password table 412. A password is then retrieved from the password table 412 based upon the random hash. This password, itself, represents a hash into password table 412. Software interface 416 determines from table 412 a response value that corresponds to the hash represented by the retrieved password. Software interface 416 stores (block 516) this response locally and encrypts (block 518) the corresponding password according to the encryption key that is stored in a secret and preferably non-volatile location on switch 130. The encrypted password is then sent (block 520) to host 120 wherein software interface 406 decrypts

the password (block 522) based upon its locally stored copy of the encryption key (which is the same as the encryption key stored in switch 130) and uses the decrypted password to hash into host password table 402. The location of host password table 402, like the location of switch password table 412 is known only to the corresponding software interface. Upon retrieving the password from its password table 402, software interface 406 encrypts (block 524) the response according to its locally stored encryption key sends the response back to switch 130. Upon receiving the encrypted response from host 120, software interface 416 decrypts the response using the encryption key and compares the received response with the value of the response stored in block 516. If the response matches, software interface 416 permits (block 530) the login to Fibre Channel fabric 101 and informs the requestor of successful completion. If the response does not match, the fabric login is denied (block 528) and the requestor is prevented from accessing fabric 101.

The described authentication method thus provides a challenge-response form of authorizing access to a protected or critical resource such as SAN 105. The challenge-response authentication requires both parties to a link to agree on a common password (or passwords). Because the agreement is based on a common and secret encryption based mechanism, the authentication is effective in preventing a “sniffer” from stealing the password(s) because the passwords travel over the link in an encrypted format.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art having the benefit of this disclosure that the present invention contemplates a strongly authenticated access to a Fibre Channel SAN. It is understood that the form of the invention shown and described in the detailed description and the drawings are to be taken merely as presently preferred examples. It is intended that the following claims be interpreted broadly to embrace all the variations of the preferred embodiments disclosed.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of accessing a storage area network (SAN), comprising:

5 retrieving a first value from a first copy of a password table;

 using the first value to retrieve a second value from the first copy of the password table;

 encrypting the first value according to a first copy of an encryption key;

10 sending the encrypted first value to a node of the SAN;

 decrypting the encrypted first value according to a second copy of the encryption key;

15 using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table;

 encrypting the third value according to the second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN;

20 decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value; and

 allowing access to the SAN if the third value and the second value match.

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2. A method of claim 1, further comprising:

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 responsive to an event selected from a power on event and a software reset event, reading a serial identification corresponding to a host;

 generating a code value based upon the serial number;

comparing the generated code value with a previously determined code value; and

denying access to the SAN if the generated code value and the previously determined
code value differ.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the code value is further based on a time stamp and date stamp.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the SAN is a Fibre Channel compliant SAN.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising, periodically executing a key generation application that generates a unique password table and encryption key for each node attached to the SAN.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the key generation application requires privileged access.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the password tables and encryption keys for each node are distributed to each node manually.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the password tables and encryption keys for each node are distributed over an encrypted link.

9. A data processing network, comprising:

a switch port including controller, receiver, transmitter, non-volatile store, and memory, wherein the switch non-volatile storage includes a first copy of a password table and a first copy of an encryption key;

a node including processor, non-volatile storage, memory, and a host bus adapter, wherein the node non-volatile storage includes a second copy of the password table and a second copy of the encryption key; and

5 wherein the node memory contains at least of a portion of a node software interface and the switch memory contains at least a portion of a switch software interface, wherein the software interfaces contain instructions for retrieving a password from the first copy of the password table in response to a login request, using the password to determine a first response, sending the password to the node, using the password to determine a second response from the second copy of the password table, sending the second response back to the node, comparing the first and second responses; and denying the login request if the first and second response differ.

10 10. The network of claim 9, further comprising a key server application comprised of a set of instructions for generating the encryption key and the key password table for the node and switch.

15 11. The network of claim 10, wherein the key server application generates an encryption key and password table for each node-switch pair of the network.

20 12. The network of claim 10, wherein the encryption key and password table are stored on a portable storage device and manually distributed to the node.

25 13. The network of claim 10, wherein the encryption key and password table are distributed to the node via an external network.

14. The network of claim 10, wherein the key server application is executed periodically to generate new keys and passwords tables.

15. The network of claim 9, wherein the first and second copies of the password table are encrypted according to encryption key and wherein the software interfaces include instructions for encrypting and decrypting the responses and the passwords according to the encryption key.

16. The network of claim 9, wherein the node software interface further contains instructions for reading a serial identification corresponding to a host, generating a code value based upon the serial number, comparing the generated code value with a previously determined code value; and denying access to the SAN if the generated code value and the previously determined code value differ.

17. The network of claim 16, wherein the instructions for generating a code value are executed in response to an event selected from a power on event and a software reset.

18. The network of claim 9, wherein the switch comprises a Fibre Channel compliant switch.

19. A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium containing instructions for authorizing access to a storage area network, the instructions comprising:

a retriever enabled to retrieve a first value from a first copy of a password table;

means for using the retriever and the first value to retrieve a second value from the first copy of the password table;

an encryptor for encrypting the first value according to a first copy of an encryption key;

means for sending the encrypted first value to a node of the SAN;

a decryptor for decrypting the encrypted first value according to a second copy of the encryption key;

means for using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table;

means for encrypting the third value according to the second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN;

means for decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value; and

means for allowing access to the SAN if the third value and the second value match.

20. The computer program product of claim 19, further comprising:

a reader enabled to determine a serial identification corresponding to a host in response to an detecting an event selected from a power on event and a software reset event;

a code value generator enabled to generate a code value based upon the serial number;

a comparator enable to compare the generated code value with a previously determined code value; and

means for denying access to the SAN if the generated code value and the previously determined code value differ.

21. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the code value is further based on a time stamp and date stamp.

22. The computer program product of claim 19, further comprising, a key generation application that generates a unique password table and encryption key for each node attached to the SAN.

AUTHENTICATED ACCESS TO STORAGE AREA NETWORK

ABSTRACT

5 A method and system for authenticating access to a storage area network (SAN) is disclosed in which a password is retrieved from a first copy of a password table in response to an access (login) request, the first copy of the password table residing on a switch and corresponding to a switch port. The password is used to retrieve a response from the first copy of the password table. The response is encrypted according to a first copy of an encryption key stored on the switch. The encrypted password is then sent to the node requesting access to the SAN, where it is decrypted according to a second copy of the encryption key residing on the node. The decrypted password is used to retrieve a response from a second copy of the password table residing on the node. The response is encrypted according to the second copy of the encryption key and sent back to the switch port. The response received from the node is then compared with the response determined from the first copy of the password table. Access to the SAN is permitted if the two responses match and denied otherwise. The method further includes a mechanism for generating codes based on hardware serial ID numbers (or other unique values) and comparing the serial ID numbers against previously stored codes to determine if the hardware serial numbers have changed and allowing or denying access to the SAN based upon that determination.

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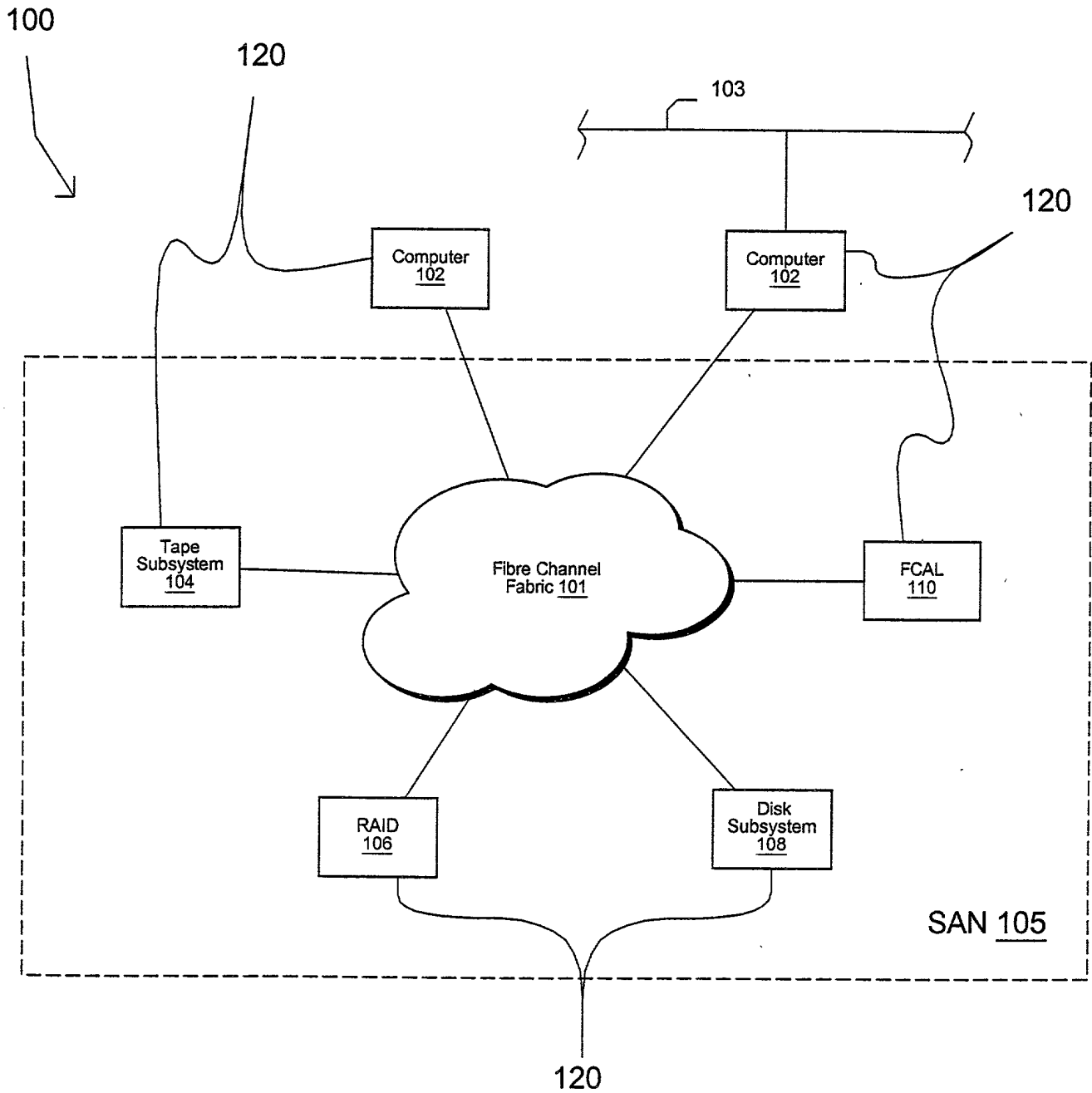


FIG 1A

AUS000165US1

FC Fabric 101

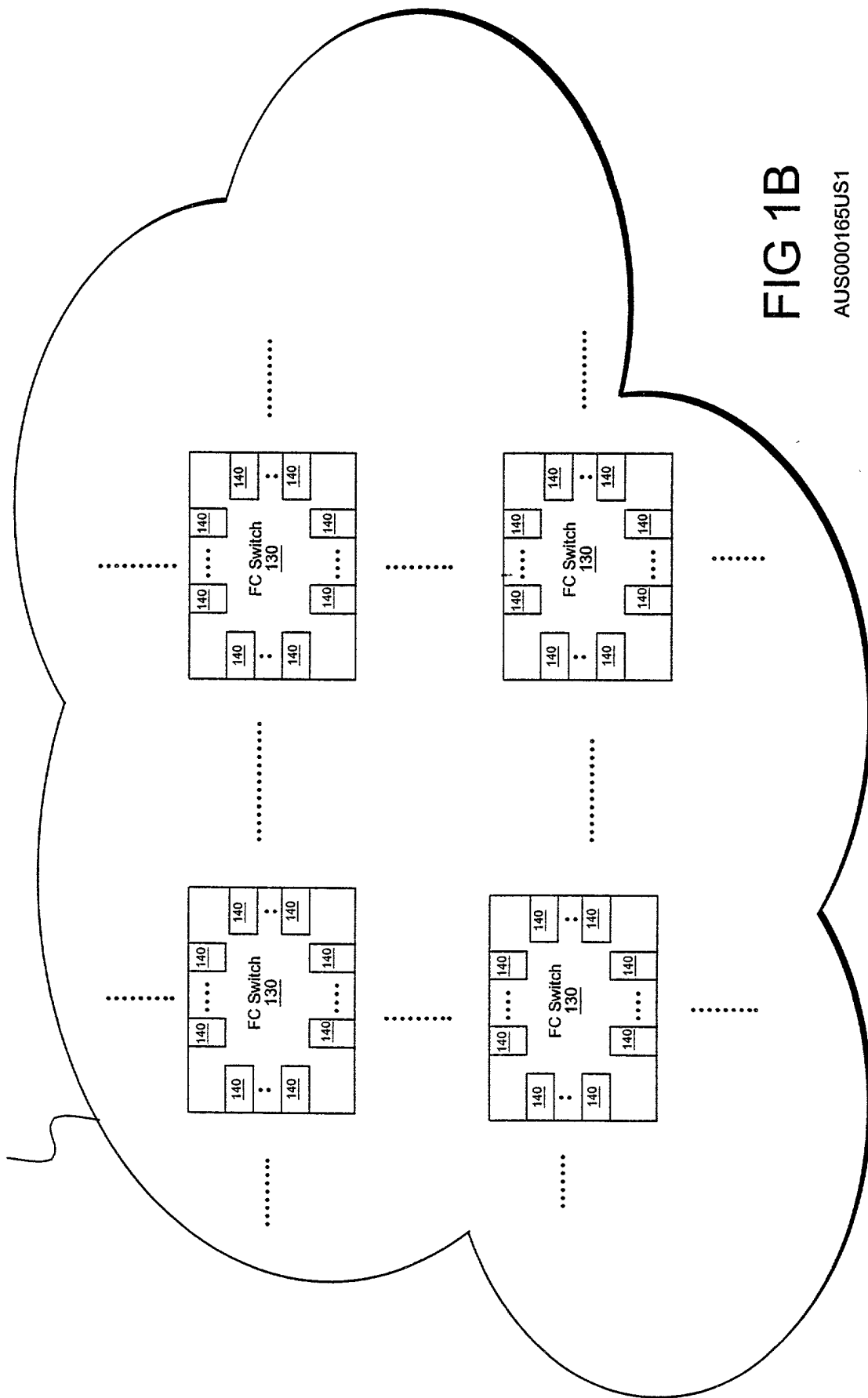


FIG 1B

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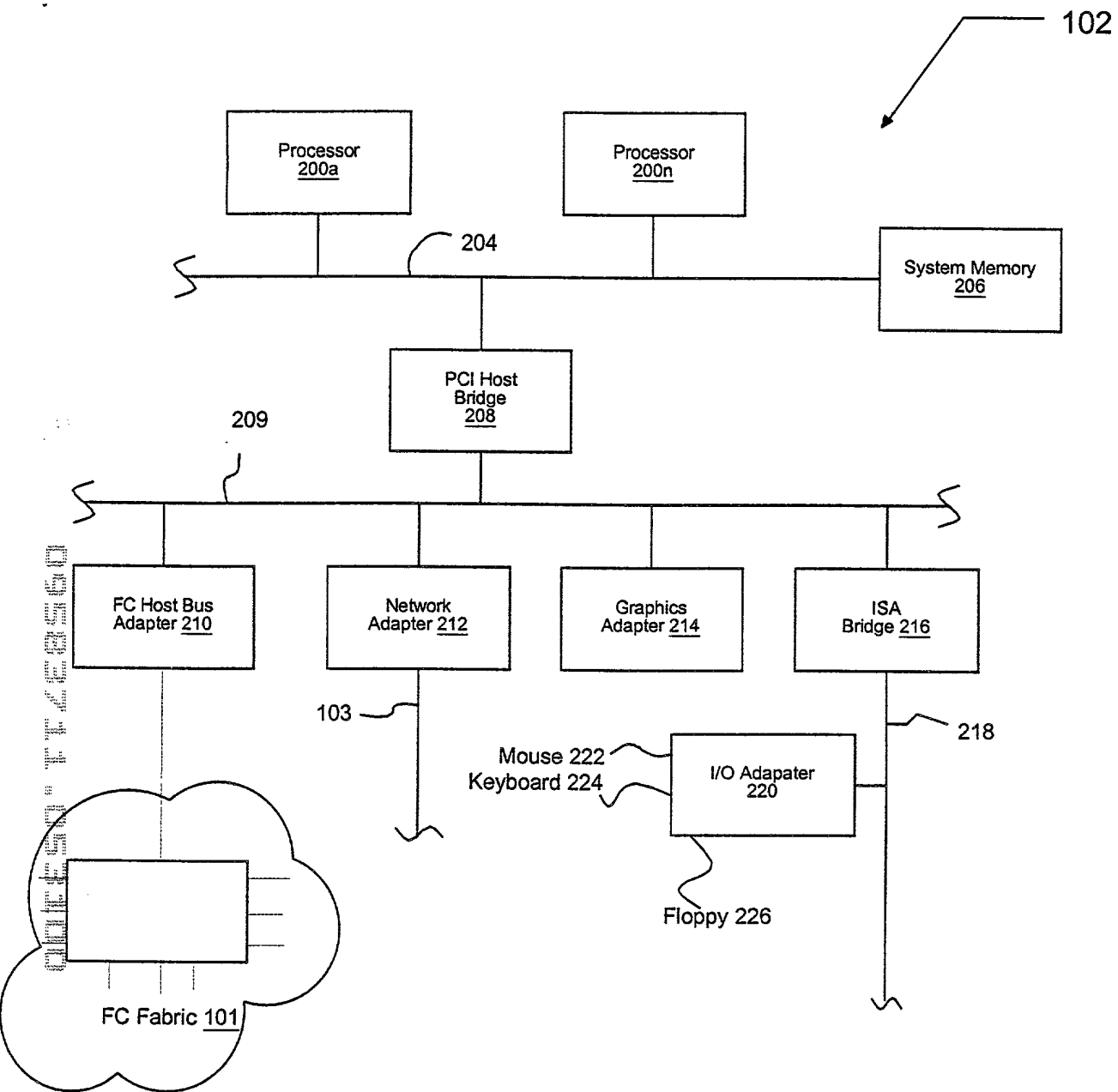
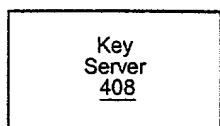
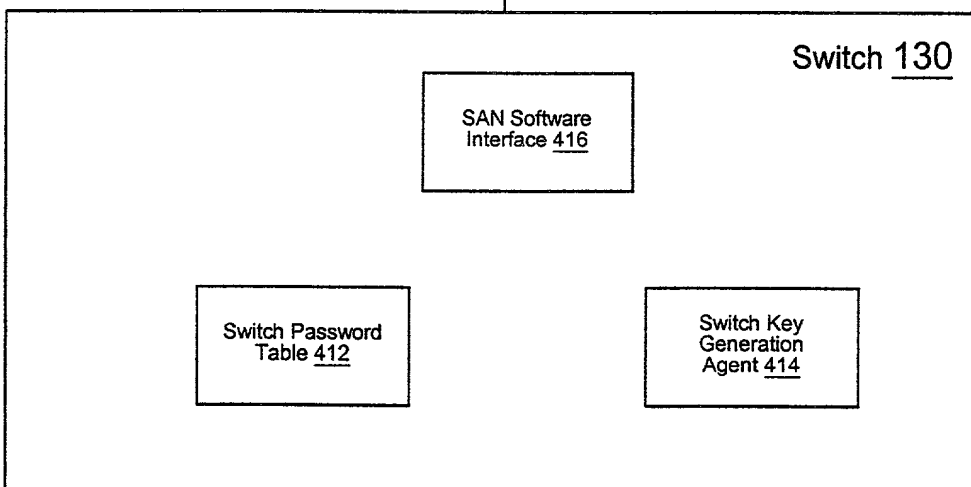
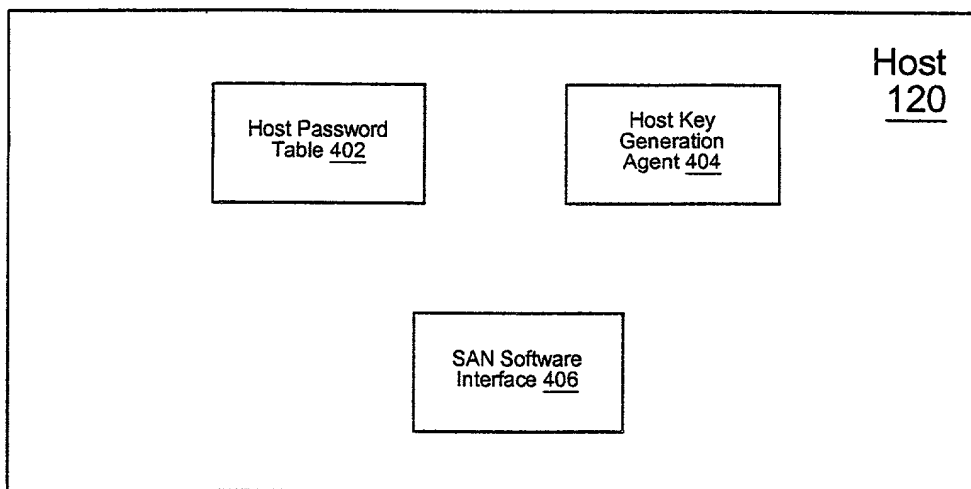


FIG 2

AUS000165US1

AUS000165US1



FC Fabric 101

FIG 4

AUS000165US1

500

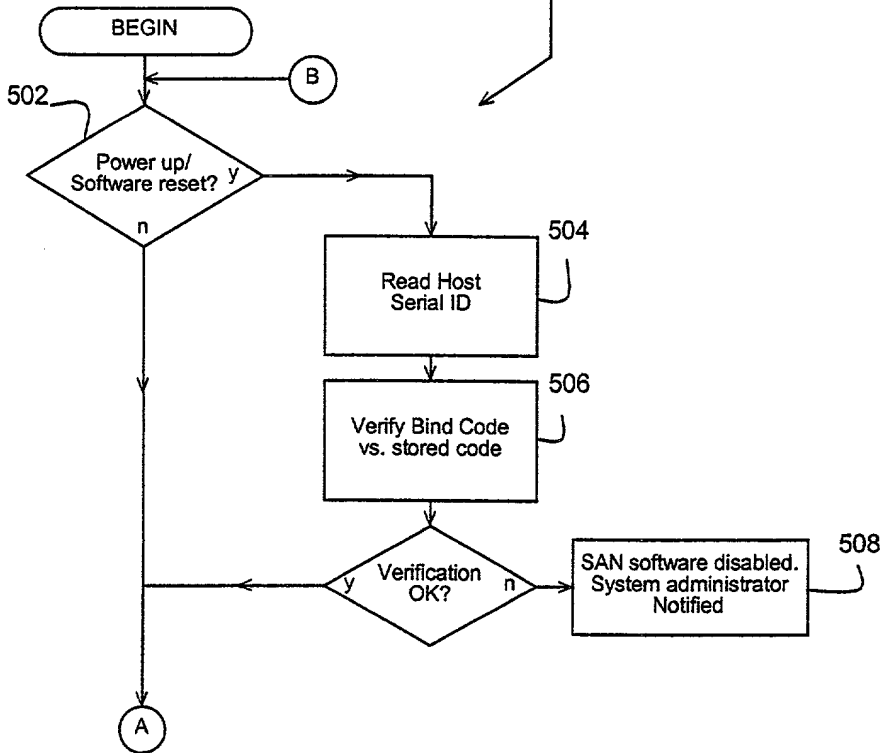
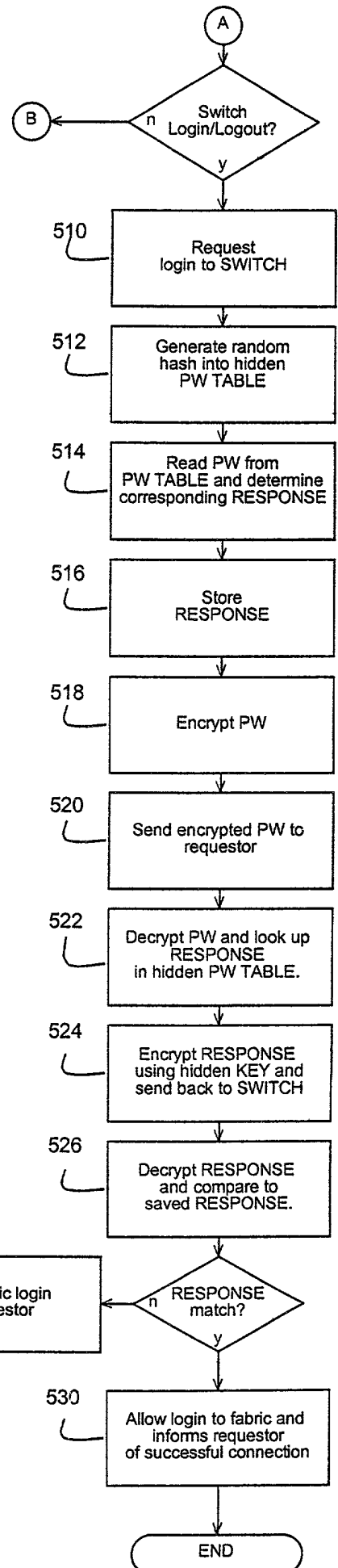


FIG 5

AUS000165US1



As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **Authenticated Access to Storage Area Network**.

X is attached hereto.
_____ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____
_____ and was amended on _____.
(if applicable)

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)			Priority Claimed
N/A			Yes/No
(Number)	(Country)	(Date Filed)	
N/A			Yes/No
(Number)	(Country)	(Date Filed)	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

N/A		
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
N/A		
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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